

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 067313
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:DTKENNEY:CCH

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

D/HR - MR.. HILL

S/S -R. PERITO

-----260148Z 117678 /75

O 260125Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 067313

EXDIS; FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS

SUBJECT: TIMOR

REF: STATE 61228

1. AS YOU KNOW FROM OUR REPORTING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS (REFTEL), DUNN'S ALLEGATIONS OF INDONESIAN ATROCITIES IN EAST TIMOR ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST HERE. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US -- INCLUDING THOSE REPORTS PROVIDED BY THE AUSTRALIANS -- WE HAVE STATED PUBLICLY THAT DUNN'S ALLEGATION APPEAR HIGHLY EXAGGERATED. WE HAVE ALSO SAID THAT THE LEVEL OF HOSTILITIES IN TIMOR HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED, DURING PAST YEAR, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF INDONESIAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 067313

RESTRAINT. WE HAVE AFFIRMED PUBLICLY OUR ACCEPTANCE OF GOI CONTROL OF TIMOR AND WE HVE EMPHASIZED TO CONGRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE (BOTH FMS AND MAP) TO INDONESIA THIS YEAR AT REQUESTED LEVELS.

2. THE POSITION WE HAVE TAKEH, BASED ON OUR PERCEPTION OF THE SITUATION, HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO THE INDONESIANS IN RE-

SPONDING TO CRITICISM BASED ON DUNN'S ALLEGATIONS. WE BELIEVE IT IS NOW VERY IMPORTANT THAT INDONESIA NOW TAKE

INITIATIVES ON ITS OWN TO EASE THE TIMOR SITUATION AND TO IMPROVE ITS GENERAL INTERNATIONAL IMAGE REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT AT MOST EFFECTIVE LEVEL FOR DISCUSSION IN SOME DEPTH OF THE TIMOR PROBLEM IN THE WAKE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. YOU SHOULD STRESS THE HELPFUL STAND WE TOOK, NOTING THAT THIS STEMMED BOTH FROM OUR BELIEF THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST INDONESIA WERE EXAGGERATED AND FROM THE IMPORTANCE THE ADMINISTRATION PLACES ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA.

4. INDONESIAN EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE THE USE OF US EQUIPMENT AND REDUCE THE LEVEL OF HOSTILITIES IN TIMOR HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN PRESENTING OUR CASE FOR INDONESIAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO CONGRESS AND THE US PUBLIC. WHILE NOT ADVISING THE GOI HOW TO CONDUCT ITS MILITARY OPERATIONS IN TIMOR, IT SHOULD BE EVIDENT TO GOI THAT US AND WORLD OPINION HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN SENSITIZED TO THE TIMOR SITUATION AND A MAJOR FLARE-UP IN MILITARY ACTIVITY WOULD QUICKLY BECOME WIDELY KNOWN AND WOULD KINDLE STRONG CRITICISM OF GOI IN US AND ELSEWHERE. THIS COULD BE SERIOUSLY DETRIMENTAL TO OUR MILITARY AID PROGRAMS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 067313

5. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE BELIEVE THE GOI, AS A RESULT OF THE HEARINGS, HAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO TURN FOREIGN PUBLIC OPINION AROUND ON THE TIMOR QUESTION AND IMPROVE ITS GENERAL IMAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. AS SUHARTO AND OTHER TOP GOI OFFICIALS KNOW, THIS IS AN ISSUE ABOUT WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY AND USG FEEL VERY STRONGLY. A PUBLIC INDONESIAN CALL NOW FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN TIMOR AND AN OFFER OF AMNESTY, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE ESPECIALLY WELL RECEIVED ABROAD. ALLOWING ICRC TO VISIT IS ANOTHER ACT WHICH WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED, AND ONE WHICH USG IS A RECORD WITH CONGRESS AS SUPPORTING. THIS COULD ALSO EASE PRESSURE FOR ANOTHER UN INVESTIGATION.

6. IN DISCUSSING THIS, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT FOR MANY FOREIGNERS ONE OF DUNN'S MOST DISTURBING ALLEGATIONS WAS THE CHARGE THAT INDONESIAN FORCES DO NOT TAKE PRISONERS BUT KILL THEM ON THE SPOT WHEN THEY CAPTURE THEM. YOU MIGHT REMIND THEM THAT THE QUESTION OF

TREATMENT OF POW'S IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE IN THE US BECAUSE OF OUR VIETNAM EXPERIENCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY AUTHORITATIVELY THAT IT IS NOT THE PRACTICE OR THE POLICY OF THE INDONESIAN FORCES TO KILL PRISONERS.

7. FINALLY, BOTH INDONESIAN EMBOFFS AND LIM BIAN KIE HAVE TOLD US THAT THE TWO COLONELS ON LOAN FROM MURDANI'S STAFF WHO ACCOMPANIED THE TIMORESE WITNESSES TO WASHINGTON WERE UPSET THAT USG WITNESSES ACKNOWLEDGED DURING THE HEARINGS THE OPEN INTERVENTION OF INDONESIAN TROOPS (INCLUDING PARATROOPERS) IN EAST TIMOR FROM DECEMBER 7, 1975. THEY REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED THAT WE WERE VIOLATING A CONFIDENCE FROM GENERAL MURDANI. WE HAVE TOLD INDONESIANS HERE THAT USG CANNOT DENY OVERT INDONESIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION. IT IS A FACT AND USG HAS ITS OWN INFORMATION TO THIS EFFECT. MOREOVER, SINCE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 067313

DEPARTMENT'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 16, 1975 TO SENATOR HART WE HAVE BEEN ON RECORD AS CONFIRMING THAT BOTH INDONESIAN TROOPS AND US EQUIPMENT WERE USED IN THE DECEMBER 7 INTERVENTION. THAT IS WHY USG TOOK ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO DELAY NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE BETWEEN DEC 75 AND JUNE 76. WE BELIEVE INDONESIA LOSES CREDIBILITY AND TIMORESE WITNESSES CONSIDERABLY UNDERCUT THEIR OWN TESTIMONY BY TRYING TO DENY THIS WIDELY KNOWN AND IRREFUTABLE FACT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR GOI TO REVERSE PUBLICLY ITS POSITION BUT IT IS NOT ONE THAT WE COULD EVER CONSIDER BECAUSE THE FACTS ARE OTHERWISE.

8. IN COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION, YOU SHOULD ALSO INDICATE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CONTINUED PROGRESS IN RELEASING THE PRISONERS REMAINING FROM THE 1965 COUP ATTEMPT. AT THE MINIMUM, WE HOPE ADMIRAL SUDOMO'S SCHEDULE WILL BE MET AND, IF POSSIBLE, EXCEEDED. IN BOTH THIS CONTEXT AND IN DISCUSSING TIMOR, YOU WILL WANT TO REMIND GOI OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STRONG VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS EXPRESSED IN HIS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO.
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, TIMOR, ALLEGATIONS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE067313
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DTKENNEY:CCH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770103-0856
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770319/aaaaapuy.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c1fe39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 61228
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2985919
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TIMOR
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS, US
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c1fe39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009